
Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

Neighbourhoods and Housing Scrutiny Board

Date: 8 November 2006

Subject: Purpose and Role of Safer Leeds Executive and Board

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to update Members on the work of the Safer Leeds Partnership.

2.0 Background

Leeds Community Safety Partnership was formed following the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act in 1998 which stipulated that statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships be established across the country. Leeds Community Safety Partnership has since become Safer Leeds Partnership following the merger of the Drug Action Team with the Leeds Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership's work is supported through Leeds Community Safety which is a service stream of the Department of Neighbourhoods and Housing. The service consists of staff from Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police.

3.0 Safer Leeds Partnership

The Safer Leeds Partnership's vision is for people to be able to live without fear for their own safety, or the safety of others. It aims to tackle crime and drugs and to address the fear of crime and drug misuse in the Leeds district.

The Partnership consists of a Board and an Executive. The Executive's primary role is to implement the Safer Leeds Strategy and it reports to the Board on the implementation and performance of the strategy. The Executive meets monthly and its members represent the responsible authorities and key members. The meetings are chaired by Chief Superintendent Geoff Dodd.

The Board's primary role is to oversee the Safer Leeds Strategy. It is a decision making group that sets the framework for the Executive and scrutinises the work being carried out by the Executive. The Board meets quarterly and its members represent agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors, the meetings are chaired by Councillor Les Carter.

4.0 **Current Priorities and Targets – Safer Leeds Strategy 2005-08**

The third Crime and Disorder Audit was conducted in 2004 and the Safer Leeds Strategy was produced for 2005-08 and the priority themes based on the findings of the audit. These are:

- Acquisitive Crime (including burglary, vehicle crime and commercial crime)
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Drugs
- Reassurance
- Violent Crime

Each of the priority themes has a strategic lead responsible for driving forward the strategy. The local delivery of the strategy is through the Divisional Community Safety Partnerships (DCSP), there are five DCSP responsible for delivering local community safety activity.

The Partnership is responsible for delivering the above priorities identified through the audit but is also responsible for targets set by the Government. The Partnership reports to Government Office on how they are performing on the Home Office Public Service Agreement (PSA1) target. The PSA1 is an agreement containing the crime reduction targets that the police, local authority and CDRP must achieve by March 2008. The PSA1 target for Leeds is to reduce BCS comparator crime by 35% from the level recorded in 2003/04. As the PSA covers three years from April 2005 to March 2008, there are annual targets to monitor progress towards the overall target of 35%. In 2005/06 the PSA1 target for Leeds was 25%.

5.0 **Funding**

Funding for the Safer Leeds Partnership comes from a range of sources:

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
Single Regeneration Budget
Leeds City Council
Pooled Treatment Budget
Trailblazer

A commissioning process is currently being developed. From April 2007, the majority of these funds will be pooled or aligned with the Leeds Local Area Agreement. The Partnership will agree to deliver its activities in order to meet agreed targets and outcomes under the Local Area Agreement.

6.0 **Key Achievements 2005/06**

Acquisitive Crime - The Burglary Reduction Unit has improved the security of over 26,000 properties in the city. The development of the alleygating scheme has proved to be successful in the piloted areas.

Anti-Social Behaviour - 390 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders issued (including bolt-on ASBOs). Leeds has been invited to be a Respect Action Area by the Home Office.

Drugs - The target of 2894 people in treatment has been exceeded with 4102 in treatment at April 2006. Retaining people in treatment - the target of 60% exceeded with 83% retained in treatment. There is faster access to treatment with waiting times substantially reduced in the last six months.

Reassurance - A number of community safety events have been held e.g. community safety roadshows in various parts of the city aimed at reducing people's fear of crime and reassuring communities and also a number of events hosted by different agencies where community safety/crime prevention advice has been provided. The Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs are deployed in communities city wide. Major developments in the field of CCTV, which play a significant part in reducing fear of crime throughout the city and neighbourhoods.

Violent Crime - Publication of the Hate Crime and Domestic Violence Strategies and the introduction of a Designated Public Place Order to prevent street drinking and alcohol related incidents in the city centre and a number of town centres. These are Garforth, Headingley, Pudsey and Wetherby.

7.0 Other Achievements

- Safer Leeds Partnership has approved the Drugs Strategy for the city
- Draft strategies have been produced around the issues of Alcohol and Prostitution
- The establishment of the S17 Community Safety Lead Officers group across Leeds City Council which has the responsibility to mainstream community safety activity across the Council

8.0 Future Direction

A review of the partnership provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA) was carried out by the Home Office, the Local Government Association, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities between November 2004 and January 2005. The Government's overall objective in carrying out the review was to strengthen the visibility, responsiveness, membership and role of local partnerships. The aim is to make them the most effective possible vehicle for tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, behaviour adversely affecting the environment and substance misuse at a local level.

Safer Leeds Partnership is confident that it is already working towards the recommendations that are likely to be agreed as part of the crime and disorder review. We await further guidance from the Government.

9.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the report and make comments and recommendations as appropriate.

